

549

Human Factors Research

Soviets Expand Applied Human Factors Research

According to recent articles, Soviet managers of nonmilitary-related industries have been adapting basic ergonomic (human factors) research to improve the system and operator efficiency of their work programs. These applications have ranged from the use of human factors studies in developing work conditions which help eliminate accidents to the evaluation of certain types of jobs suitable for psychiatric patients undergoing work therapy. In each case, the importance of human factors research is mentioned specifically along with reference to expanding future research in this area. (JPRS 65613, 8 Sep 75; 63298, 29 Oct 74; 65650, 10 Sep 75; 65142, 3 Jul 75) (U)

COMMENT: It is expected that Soviet work in this field will parallel that of the US. Thus, the application of human factors research will help the Soviets in the long range to solve some of the problems they are currently experiencing in man-machine interface, job training and worker productivity. The articles proclaimed the significance and successful application of Soviet ergonomic (human factors) research. In most cases the validity of the results obtained cannot be judged from the data presented because of the lack of information on the experimental design. Nevertheless, the fact that articles emphasizing the need for human factors research are ~~are~~ beginning to proliferate indicates that this field is recognized at the managerial level as important. If in fact these articles are reporting experimentally valid and reliable results, it is expected that human factors research will continue to expand at a rapid pace in the USSR.

This abundance of articles is most likely a direct result of: (1) the 23rd and 24th CPSU Congresses which heavily emphasized study of the place and role of workers in specific production processes with the goal of accelerating the growth of labor

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(b)(1)
(b)(3)

productivity, and (2) a "hard sell" of the importance of human factors research by B.F. Lomov, Director of the Inst. of ~~State~~ Psychology and other psychologists engaged in human factors research.

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